## Compensation Programs and Practices

WorldatWork<br>January 2015



## WorldatWork

The Total Rewards Association

## About WorldatWork ${ }^{\circledR}$ - The Total Rewards Association

WorldatWork (www.worldatwork.org) is a nonprofit human resources association for professionals and organizations focused on compensation, benefits, work-life effectiveness and total rewards - strategies to attract, motivate and retain an engaged and productive workforce. WorldatWork and its affiliates provide comprehensive education, certification, research, advocacy and community, enhancing careers of professionals and, ultimately, achieving better results for the organizations they serve. WorldatWork has more than 65,000 members and subscribers worldwide; 95 percent of Fortune 500 companies employ a WorldatWork member. Founded in 1955, WorldaWork is affiliated with more than 70 local human resources associations and has offices in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Washington, D.C.

WorldatWork Society of Certified Professionals ${ }^{\circledR}$ is the certifying body for six prestigious designations: the Certified Compensation Professional ${ }^{\circledR}\left(\right.$ CCP $\left.^{\circledR}\right)$, Certified Benefits Professional ${ }^{\circledR}$ (CBP), Global Remuneration Professional (GRP®), Work-Life Certified Professiona ${ }^{\circledR}$ (WLCP ${ }^{\oplus}$ ), Certified Sales Compensation Professional (CSCP) ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ and Certified Executive Compensation Professional (CECP) ${ }^{\text {TM }}$.

The WorldatWork group of registered marks also includes: Alliance for Work-Life Progress or AWLP, workspan and WorldatWork Journal.

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## Introduction \& Methodology

This report summarizes the results of a July 2014 survey of WorldatWork members to gather information about trends in compensation programs and practices. This survey focuses on the prevalence of base and variable pay programs as well as common practices used to administer and communicate these programs in today's workplace.

On July 16, 2014, survey invitations were sent electronically to 5,032 WorldatWork members. Participants were randomly selected U.S., Canadian and foreign WorldatWork members who have designated compensation and benefits in their title. The survey closed on Aug. 1, 2014, with 671 responses, a $13 \%$ response rate. The final data set was cleaned, resulting in 626 responses.

In order to provide the most accurate data possible, data were cleaned and analyzed using statistical software. Any duplicate records were removed. Data comparisons with any relevant, statistically significant differences are noted within this report where applicable.

The demographics of the survey sample and the respondents are similar to the WorldatWork membership as a whole. The typical WorldatWork member works at the managerial level or higher in the headquarters of a large company in North America.

The frequencies or response distributions listed in the report show the number of times or percentage of times a value appears in a data set. Due to rounding, frequencies of data responses provided in this survey may not total exactly $100 \%$.

WorldatWork conducted similar compensation practices surveys in 2012, 2010 and 2003. The reports, "Compensation Programs and Practices 2012," "Compensation Programs and Practices" (2010) and "Survey of Compensation Policies and Practices" (2003), can be viewed on the WorldatWork website. Where possible, historical comparisons from data gathered in the previous surveys are shown.

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## Demographics

Figure 1: "Your organization is:" ( $n=581$ )


Figure 2: "Please choose the total number of full-time employees (FTEs) your organization employs worldwide:" (n=582)

| Option | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: |
| Less than 100 employees | $1 \%$ |
| 100 to 499 | $2 \%$ |
| 500 to 999 | $5 \%$ |
| 1,000 to 2,499 | $16 \%$ |
| 2,500 to 4,999 | $15 \%$ |
| 5,000 to 9,999 | $21 \%$ |
| 10,000 to 19,999 | $16 \%$ |
| 20,000 to 39,999 | $9 \%$ |
| 40,000 to 99,999 | $10 \%$ |
| 100,000 or more employees | $6 \%$ |

Figure 3: "Please choose one category that best describes the industry in which your organization operates:" (n=575)
Industries with less than 2\% are not listed in this table.

| Option | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: |
| Finance and Insurance | $14 \%$ |
| All Other Manufacturing | $12 \%$ |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | $10 \%$ |
| Utilities, Oil and Gas | $9 \%$ |
| Consulting, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | $7 \%$ |
| Retail Trade | $6 \%$ |
| Educational Services | $4 \%$ |
| Information (includes Publishing, IT, etc.) | $3 \%$ |
| Transportation | $2 \%$ |
| Public Administration | $2 \%$ |
| Computer and Electronic Manufacturing | $2 \%$ |
| Other | $20 \%$ |

Figure 4: "For which regions of the world do you have responsibility? (Check all that apply.)" (n=575)


## Executive Summary

Now a full five years since the recession of 2008-2009, compensation practices have experienced a convergence in terms of pay philosophy, with fully $85 \%$ of organizations targeting the market median for base pay and $78 \%$ targeting the market median for total cash (base plus short-term variable pay). This focus on the market extends to job evaluation methods, where market pricing now dominates at $89 \%$ usage among survey respondents. While virtually all organizations ( $92 \%$ ) have a compensation philosophy, $45 \%$ indicate that most or all of their employees do not understand it. Furthermore, $39 \%$ of organizations indicate they share minimal information with employees regarding their individual salaries. Perhaps the fact that so many organizations are following a similar pay policy has led to some level of malaise in communication, where "no change" equates to "no communication necessary."

Pay for performance continues to thrive with better than 7 in 10 ( $72 \%$ ) saying they directly tie pay increases to job performance, and two-thirds ( $67 \%$ ) indicating increases for top performers are at least 1.5 times the increase of average performers. Furthermore, the results indicate that employees' understanding of the organization's compensation philosophy improves when there is higher differentiation in increases between average and top performers.

Finally, for those organizations with multinational operations, $83 \%$ primarily or exclusively design variable pay programs at the corporate level, although $50 \%$ do allow for limited adaptation at the local level.

## Compensation Philosophy

- More than 9 of every 10 companies have a compensation philosophy ( $92 \%$ ), with $65 \%$ having a written policy and $27 \%$ having an unwritten policy. These results have changed minimally since 2012 when $93 \%$ of organizations had a written or unwritten compensation philosophy. (See Figure 5.)
- $28 \%$ of respondents indicate that most or all of their employees understand the company's compensation philosophy. These results continue a slow decline in employee understanding, as the figure has dropped from $35 \%$ in 2003. (See Figure 6.)
- $85 \%$ of organizations target their base salary at the $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile, or median. However, $66 \%$ pay at the median in practice. There is a similar difference between the total cash target ( $78 \%$ ) and total cash practice (61\%). (See Figure 7.)
- Most organizations are determining the relative value of jobs based on market pricing (89\%), followed by classification (18\%) and point factor (18\%). (See Figure 8.)
- Bonuses ( $82 \%$ ) have continued to increase as the most frequently used variable pay plan for some or all employees. Recognition (e.g., spot award) and performance sharing (based on other financial or nonfinancial goals) are also widely used, at $66 \%$ and $65 \%$ respectively. As bonuses have continued to increase, the use of individual incentives (other than sales incentives) has declined by $17 \%$ since 2012. (See Figure 10.)


## Individual Base Salary Determination

- Individual performance against job standards ( $71 \%$ ) is most used to determine base salary increases for employees, followed by position in range (59\%), individual performance against management by objectives (MBOs) or similar personal objectives (49\%) and market value of the position ( $49 \%$ ). This is similar to the 2012 results, except individual performance against MBOs or similar personal objectives fell 9\%. (See Figure 12.)
- Most organizations have a rating system with a performance score that is tied to salary increases (72\%), an upward trend since 2010. (See Figure 13.)
- Consistent with 2012 and 2010, in 2014 moderate variation - meaning top performers receive 1.5 times the average increase - is the most typical variation in salary increase between average and top performers. (See Figure 14). Also similar to previous years, a merit matrix is most commonly used as a guide by managers as a method for determining annual increases. (See Figure 15.)


## Base Salary Structure Design

- Similar to previous years, companies largely assess the market value of jobs on an annual basis ( $57 \%$ ), but also assess market conditions on an as-needed basis (20\%). (See Figure 20.)
- A majority of base salary structures for employees are still adjusted once a year (59\%), with $14 \%$ of companies adjusting their structures once every two years, which has increased by $5 \%$ from the previous two surveys. (See Figure 22.) Most organizations have more than one salary structure (77\%), up from 2012 (72\%) and 2010 (59\%). (See Figure 22a.)
- Salary structures are defined/identified largely by geographic region (52\%); job category role ( $44 \%$ ), which is a notable increase from 2012 ( $23 \%$ ); and Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) exemption status or other regulatory classification (27\%). (See Figure 24.)


## Pay Program Communications and Employee Involvement

- The percentage of organizations providing minimal pay-related information to their employees is increasing ( $39 \%$ ), and a modest yet consistent decline is occurring of pay program design information being shared (e.g., strategy, compensation markets, link to performance). (See Figure 28.)
- $82 \%$ of employers hold individual discussions between employees and supervisors to share information about the pay program. (See Figure 29.) Typically, these conversations occur at least once annually, practiced by $77 \%$ of organizations. (See Figure 30.)
- The approach to communicating individual pay increases has remained similar to previous results, with a majority of organizations providing brief written (55\%) and/or verbal (53\%) communication. (See Figure 31.)


## Evaluation of Salary Policies and Practices

- Management primarily uses employee turnover or retention data (62\%) and employee satisfaction survey metrics (53\%) to determine the effectiveness of salary programs. (See Figure 32.)


## Global Practices

- $82 \%$ of compensation philosophies in global practices are universal or companywide rather than varying by country or region (18\%), and most performance management programs are applied consistently to all countries (84\%). (See Figures 33 and 36.)
- Half of the variable pay programs for global practices are designed primarily at the corporate level, and all employees usually participate in the same programs. A third of the global programs are designed exclusively at the corporate level, with all employees worldwide participating in the same programs. (See Figure 34.)
- $81 \%$ of global organizations use bonuses (e.g., sign-on, retention) for some or all employees in the United States, Canada and the Middle East. Following bonuses, organizations use recognition (e.g., spot award), performance sharing (based on other financial or nonfinancial goals) and individual incentives (other than sales incentives). (See Figure 35.)


## Results and Analysis

## Compensation Philosophy

Figure 5: "Does your company have a compensation philosophy for paying employees?"

|  | 2003 | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n=$ |  | 1,381 | 996 | 621 |
| We have a written compensation philosophy | $62 \%$ | $61 \%$ | $67 \%$ | $65 \%$ |  |
| We have an unwritten compensation philosophy | $29 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $27 \%$ |  |
| We do not have a compensation philosophy | $7 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $8 \%$ |  |
| Other | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ |  |

Figure 6: "To what extent do employees understand the company's compensation philosophy?"

|  |  | 2003 | 2010 | 2012 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n=$ |  | 1,237 | 921 |
| Virtually no employees understand the <br> compensation philosophy | $6 \%$ | $7 \%$ | 561 |  |
| Most do not understand the compensation <br> philosophy | $32 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| About half of employees understand the <br> compensation philosophy | $28 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $38 \%$ |
| Most employees understand the compensation <br> philosophy | $31 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Virtually all employees understand the <br> compensation philosophy | $4 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $3 \%$ |

## Competitive Positioning

Figure 7: "Compared to the relevant labor market what is your organization's:"

|  | $25^{\text {th }}$ percentile or below | Above $25^{\text {th }}$ but below $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile | $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile, or median | Above $50^{\text {th }}$ but below $75^{\text {th }}$ percentile | $75^{\text {th }}$ percentile or above |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Base salary target (or goal) ( $\mathrm{n}=594$ ) | 1\% | 5\% | 85\% | 8\% | 2\% |
| Base salary practice ( $\mathrm{n}=589$ ) | 2\% | 18\% | 66\% | 12\% | 1\% |
| Total cash target or goal ( $\mathrm{n}=520$ ) | 1\% | 3\% | 78\% | 13\% | 5\% |
| Total cash practice ( $\mathrm{n}=513$ ) | 1\% | 16\% | 61\% | 18\% | 4\% |

Figure 8: "How does your organization determine the relative value of jobs (job evaluation method)? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{n}=$ | $\mathbf{9 8 9}$ |
| Market pricing | $88 \%$ | $\mathbf{6 1 1}$ |
| Ranking | $15 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| Classification | $17 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| Point factor | $20 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| Other method | $7 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| No method in place | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ |

## Variable Pay Programs

Figure 9: "Does your organization use variable pay (not including sales commission plans)?"


Figure 10: "Which of the following types of variable pay plans does your organization use for some or all employees? (Please select all that apply.)"1


Figure 11: "Compared to the relevant labor market what is your organization's:"


[^0]
## Individual Base Salary Determination

Figure 12: "How are base salary increases typically determined for employees? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{n}=$ | $\mathbf{1 , 3 3 7}$ | $\mathbf{9 7 9}$ |
| Individual performance against job standards | $73 \%$ | $66 \%$ | $71 \%$ |
| Individual <br> objectives | $44 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $49 \%^{2}$ |
| Position in range | $54 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $59 \%$ |
| Market value of the position | $55 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $49 \%$ |
| Skill or competency acquisition | $25 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| General increase - everyone receives the same increase | $11 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Years of service | $13 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Education/certifications | $10 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
| Other | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $6 \%$ |

## Pay for Performance

Figure 13: "Do you have a formal employee performance rating system, resulting in a performance metric or score?"


[^1]Figure 14: "If salary increases are based on performance, what is the typical variation in salary increases for 2014?"

|  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n=$ | 836 | 679 |
| Base salary increase is based on something other than <br> individual performance | $1 \%$ | $2 \%$ | 432 |
| Everyone receives approximately the same increase | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Small variation (increase for top performers is 1.25 times the <br> average) | $24 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Moderate variation (increase for top performers is 1.5 times <br> the average) | $43 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Considerable variation (increase for top performers is 2 <br> times the average) | $25 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $45 \%$ |
| Extreme variation (increase for top performers is 3 times the <br> average) | $2 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $3 \%$ |

Figure 15: "If your organization allocates annual increases based on performance, indicate the method for determining the actual increase:"

|  | 2012 | 2014 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 677 | 425 |
| A merit matrix (position in range and performance rating) is published that managers MUST follow in which a specific percentage increase is published for each box of the matrix | 12\% | 13\% |
| A merit matrix is published that managers MUST follow in which a specific RANGE of increases is published for each box of the matrix | 11\% | 13\% |
| A merit matrix is published that managers use as a GUIDE, but they have discretion to deviate if deemed appropriate | 51\% | 52\% |
| A specific guide providing one increase percentage or a range of increase percentages for each level of performance (position in salary range is not considered) is published that MUST be followed | 8\% | 6\% |
| A specific guide providing one increase percentage or a range of increase percentages for each level of performance (position in salary range is not considered) is published as a GUIDE only | 10\% | 10\% |
| Other type of guidance is provided | 5\% | 5\% |
| No guidance is provided other than the overall budget figure | 3\% | 1\% |

Figure 16: "How many performance ratings levels/categories are used when assessing individual performance? (Please do not include levels such as 'Too new to rate,' 'New hire,' etc.)"


Figure 17: "How were employees distributed across these performance categories for 2013 or for the last performance period?"


## FLSA Classification (U.S.)

Figure 18: "What portion of your organization's U.S. positions/jobs are exempt from Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) requirements?"


Figure 19: "For what portion of your organization's U.S. positions/jobs do you maintain FLSA exemption status documentation?"


## Base Salary Structure Design

Figure 20: "How often do you assess the market value of jobs (i.e., pricing benchmarks or all jobs with salary survey data)?"


Figure 21: "Does your organization use a formal salary structure(s)?" (n=589)


Figure 22: "How often do you typically adjust base salary structures for employees?"


Figure 22a:"Does your organization have more than one salary structure?"


Figure 23: "How many separate structures are in place?"
Only participants who answered "Yes" in Figure 21 received this question.


Figure 24: "How are the separate structures defined/identified? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n=$ | 836 | 627 |
| By FLSA exemption status or other regulatory classification | $35 \%$ | $33 \%$ | 433 |
| By business unit/subsidiary | $25 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $18 \%{ }^{2}$ |
| By geographic region | $45 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $52 \%$ |
| By bargaining unit/union | $7 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| By job category/role | $32 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| Other | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $11 \%$ |

[^2]Figure 25: "Does your salary structure(s) consist of salary grades or broadbands?"


Figure 25a:"For hourly positions, what is the typical range spread [(maximum/minimum) -1] of ranges in your structure(s)?"


Figure 25b:"For salaried (except executive) positions, what is the typical range spread [(maximum/minimum) -1] of ranges in your structure(s)?"


Figure 25c: "For executive positions, what is the typical range spread [(maximum/minimum) -1] of ranges in your structure(s)?"


Figure 26: "For structures covering U.S. employees, what is the general midpoint progression?"

|  | n | Less <br> than $5 \%$ | 5\% to <br> less <br> than <br> 9\% | 10\% to <br> less <br> than <br> $\mathbf{1 4 \%}$ | 15\% to <br> less <br> than <br> $\mathbf{1 9 \%}$ | 20\% to <br> less <br> than <br> $\mathbf{3 0 \%}$ | Greater <br> than <br> $\mathbf{3 0 \%}$ | Midpoint <br> not <br> defined | Varies |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hourly | 397 | $4 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| Salaried | 421 | $4 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Executive | 374 | $3 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $18 \%$ |

## Types of Increases

Figure 27: "What types of salary increases and/or adjustments does your organization award to some or all employees? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 1,306 | 946 | 584 |
| Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) | 11\% | 12\% | 11\% |
| Merit increases | 92\% | 94\% | $95 \%{ }^{4}$ |
| Promotional increases (result of higher/greater level of responsibility) | 94\% | 97\% | 96\% |
| Temporary special assignment pay | 36\% | 39\% | 40\% |
| Pay differentials (usually related to atypical schedule, hazardous or unsecure work environment, special skill set or responsibilities, etc.) | 42\% | 49\% | 45\% |
| Market adjustments | 76\% | 77\% | 77\% |
| Internal equity adjustments | 64\% | 69\% | 70\% ${ }^{5}$ |
| General across-the-board increases not considered COLA or market adjustments | 12\% | 13\% | 10\% |
| Length of service | n/a | n/a | 3\% |
| Geographic differential | n/a | n/a | $33 \%$ |
| Other | 4\% | 4\% | 3\% |

[^3]
## Pay Program Communications and Employee Involvement

Figure 28: "How much information is shared with employees about their individual salaries? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\mathrm{n}=$ | 1,300 | 940 |
| Minimal pay-related information is shared | $32 \%$ | $34 \%$ | 575 |
| Information regarding the design of the pay program (e.g., <br> strategy, compensation markets, link to performance, etc.) | $49 \%$ | $49 \%$ |  |
| Base salary range for the employee's pay grade | $43 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| Base salary ranges for all pay grades or jobs | $19 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| Actual pay levels for all employees | $1 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| Other | $4 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $4 \%$ |

Figure 29: "In the past 12 months, how did employees receive communications about the pay program? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 2014 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\mathbf{n}=$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 9 9}$ | 940 |
| Company website | $42 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| Employee meetings | $27 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $23 \%$ |
| Memos, emails | $41 \%$ | $37 \%$ | $42 \%$ |
| Employee handbook or orientation manual | $21 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Individual discussions with their supervisor | $73 \%$ | $79 \%$ | $82 \%{ }^{6}$ |
| Individual discussions with human resources/compensation <br> department | $30 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $28 \%$ |
| No pay communications | $7 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| Periodic total rewards or compensation statements | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $43 \%$ |
| Other | $6 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $3 \%$ |

[^4]Figure 30: "How often did employees receive communications about their individual pay in the past 12 months?"


Figure 31: "The approach to communicating individual pay increases is: (Please select all that apply.)"


## Evaluation of Salary Policies and Practices

Figure 32: "How does management determine if the salary program is effective? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 2014 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{n}=$ | $\mathbf{1 , 2 5 8}$ | $\mathbf{9 2 2}$ |
| Business/operating results | $32 \%$ | $29 \%$ | 303 |
| Employee productivity metrics | $17 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Employee turnover or retention | $59 \%$ | $63 \%$ | $62 \%$ |
| Employee satisfaction survey metrics | $46 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $53 \%^{7}$ |
| Labor cost is controlled/lowered | $15 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Senior leadership tells us that it is working | $21 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| Employees tell us that it is working | $18 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| Management does not evaluate salary program <br> effectiveness | $22 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| Other | $3 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $2 \%$ |

## Global Practices

Figure 33: "If you have a compensation philosophy, is it universal companywide or does it vary by country or region?" ( $n=136$ )


[^5]Figure 34: "If you have employees in multiple countries, how are your variable pay programs designed and administered?"

|  | 2012 | 2014 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{n}=$ | 235 | 147 |
| Variable pay programs are designed exclusively at the corporate level, and all employees worldwide participate in the same programs | 33\% | 33\% |
| Variable pay programs are designed primarily at the corporate level, and all employees usually participate in the same programs, with flexibility for local countries to make limited adaptations or implement unique programs of nominal cost | 47\% | 50\% |
| Variable pay programs are designed with significant input from local HR and/or line management. One or a few core variable pay programs exist companywide, however different countries have significant latitude to implement additional local programs based on local practice and competitive factors | 17\% | 13\% |
| Variable pay programs are designed and administered primarily at the local level to ensure they are meeting the unique needs of local employees | 3\% | 4\% |

Figure 35: "Which of the following types of variable pay plans does your organization use for some or all employees based on the regions you are responsible for? (Please select all that apply.)"

|  | n |  | Performance <br> sharing <br> Pharing <br> (based on <br> other <br> financial or <br> nonfinancial <br> goals) | Individual <br> incentives <br> (other than <br> sales <br> incentives) | Bonuses <br> (e.g., <br> sign-on, <br> retention) | Recognition <br> (e.g., spot <br> award) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| United States/Canada | 144 | $21 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $69 \%$ |
| Africa | 52 | $15 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $39 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $67 \%$ |
| Asia-Pacific | 120 | $15 \%$ | $59 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $75 \%$ | $65 \%$ |
| Eastern Europe | 70 | $23 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $71 \%$ | $60 \%$ |
| Western Europe | 109 | $17 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $79 \%$ | $66 \%$ |
| Middle East | 63 | $19 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $37 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $62 \%$ |
| Latin America | 99 | $22 \%$ | $61 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $77 \%$ | $63 \%$ |

Figure 36: "Is your performance management program applied consistently to all countries?" (n=147)


## Additional Analysis

## Comparisons by Type of Compensation Philosophy

The following section provides a detailed analysis of perceived employee understanding of organizations' compensation philosophies, according to survey respondents. Employee understanding fell into the following categories:

- Virtually all or most employees do not understand the compensation philosophy.
- About half of employees understand the compensation philosophy.
- Most or all employees understand the compensation philosophy.

Figure 37: Perceived Employees' Understanding of Compensation Philosophies, by Year


Figure 38: Employee performance rating system, by portion of employees with perceived understanding of compensation philosophy:


Figure 39: Variation in salary increases for 2014, by portion of employees with perceived understanding of compensation philosophy:


## Comparisons by Sector

The following section provides a detailed analysis of how an organization's compensation philosophy can vary by sector:

- Public sector
- Private sector
- Nonprofit/Not-for-profit.

Figure 40: Organization sector, by employee performance rating system:

|  | Public | Private | Nonprofit |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n=$ | 96 | 390 | 92 |
| We have a rating system with a performance score that is tied to <br> salary increases | $70 \%$ | $74 \%$ | $62 \%$ |  |
| We have a rating system with a performance score that is not tied to <br> salary increases | $18 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $20 \%$ |  |
| We assess performance, but we do not have a performance score | $12 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $13 \%$ |  |
| No, we do not assess performance | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $5 \%$ |  |

Figure 41: Organization sector, by variation in salary increases for 2014:

|  | Public | Private | Nonprofit |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Base salary increase is based on something other than individual <br> performance | $1 \%$ | 29 | 58 |
| No variation (approximately the same increase for everyone) | $6 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Small variation (increase for top performers is 1.25 times the <br> average) | $25 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| Moderate variation (increase for top performers is 1.5 times the <br> average) | $45 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $48 \%$ |
| Considerable variation (increase for top performers is 2 times the <br> average) | $19 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| Extreme variation (increase for top performers is at least 3 times the <br> average) | $4 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $0 \%$ |

Figure 42: Organization sector, by types of pay information shared with employees:

|  | Public | Private | Nonprofit |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | n= | 98 | 384 |
| Minimal pay-related information is shared | $27 \%$ | 90 |  |
| Information regarding the design of the pay program is shared (e.g., <br> strategy, compensation markets, link to performance, etc.) | $46 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $38 \%$ |
| Base salary range for the employee's pay grade is shared | $48 \%$ | $41 \% 8$ | $41 \%$ |
| Base salary ranges for all pay grades or jobs are shared | $31 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $57 \%$ |
| Actual pay levels for all employees are shared | $12 \%$ | $20 \%$ |  |
| Other | $8 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ |

[^6]AAA NCNU
AAA Southern New England
AAM
Ace Hardware Corp.
Acushnet Co.
Adecco North America
Advance Central Services Inc.
Advent Software Inc.
Aetna Inc.
AGL Resources Inc.
Air Canada
Air Liquide USA LLC
Airbnb
Alberta Health Services
Alkermes PLC
Allscripts
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center
Amgen Inc.
Aon PLC
Applied Materials Inc.
Apptio Inc.
Arapahoe County Government
Arby's Restaurant Group Inc.
AREVA Inc.
Arizona Public Service Co.
ASRC Federal
Associated Bank
Astoria Bank
AT\&T Inc.
ATCO Gas
ATCO Pipelines
AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
Aurora Health Care
Automatic Data Processing
Aviall Services Inc.
AXA Equitable
The Babcock \& Wilcox Co.
Balfour Beatty Construction US
Banner Health
Barnes Group Inc.
Barry Callebaut
Baxter
BBVA Compass
Bell Canada
Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Big Heart Pet Brands
Bill \& Melinda Gates Foundation
Black \& Veatch
Black Hills Corp.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

BMC Software
BMO Harris Bank
BNSF Railway Co.
Boart Longyear
Booz Allen Hamilton
Bose Corp.
Boston Scientific Corp.
Botsford Health Care
Boy Scouts of America
Briggs \& Stratton Corp.
Brinker International Inc.
Brookfield Global Relocation Services
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
Buck Consultants LLC
CAA South Central Ontario
California Casualty Management Co.
California Pacific Medical Center
Canadian Tire Corp.
Capital One
Capital Power Corp.
Cardinal Health Inc.
Career Education Corp.
Carnegie Mellon University
Carpenter Technology Corp.
Carter's Inc.
Cash America International Inc.
Celestica Inc.
Cengage Learning
Ceridian HCM
Chelan County PUD
Children's Medical Center Dallas
CHRISTUS Health
CHS Inc.
Chubb \& Son
Citizens Energy Group
City of Columbus
City of Seattle
Clemson University
Cleveland Clinic
Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.
CNA Insurance
CNH Industrial
Coca-Cola North America Group
Colgate-Palmolive Co.
Collier County Government
Colorado Springs Utilities
Columbia University
Concordia University
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Continental Automotive Inc.
Convergys Corp.

Corning Inc.
Cottage Health System
COUNTRY Financial
Curtiss-Wright Corp.
CVS Caremark
Cytec Industries Inc.
Daiichi Sankyo Company Ltd.
Dairy Farmers of America
David's Bridal
Daymon Worldwide
Dean Foods Co.
Dean Health System
Deere \& Co.
Delhaize America
DENSO International America Inc.
DENSO Manufacturing Michigan Inc.
DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee Inc.
Desjardins
Dick's Sporting Goods Inc.
Direct Supply
Discovery Communications Inc.
Dollar Tree Inc.
Domtar Corp.
Dun \& Bradstreet
DynCorp International
E.A. Sween Co.

Eastern Bank
Eastern Michigan University
Eastman Chemical Co.
Edwards Lifesciences Corp.
EmblemHealth Inc.
Emergent BioSolutions Inc.
Encana Services Company Ltd.
Entropic Communications Inc.
EPCOR
Esterline Technologies Corp.
Evonik Corp.
Express LLC
Exterran
Farm Credit Canada
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC)
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Federal Reserve
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc. (US)
FHI 360
Fidelity National Information Services (FIS)
Fike Corp.
FINRA
FirstEnergy Corp.
Fleetmatics
Fletcher Allen Health Care
Florida Blue

Fluor Corp.
Follett Corp.
Fortune Brands Home \& Security Inc.
Fox Networks Group
Freddie Mac
FT Services
Gannett Company Inc.
Gap Inc.
The Gates Corp.
GATX Corp.
GDF SUEZ Energy North America
General Atomics
General Dynamics Land Systems - Canada
General Mills Inc.
General Motors Co.
Gibson Energy Inc.
Girl Scouts of the USA
Global Power Equipment Group Inc.
GM Financial
Golden Living
Goodman Networks Inc.
Google Inc.
Government of British Columbia
Graphic Packaging International
Great-West Financial
Group Health Cooperative of South Central
Wisconsin
Guardian Life
GuideOne Insurance
Hackensack University Medical Center
Halcon Resources Corp.
Harvard University
Hawaii Employers Council
Haworth Inc.
Health Care Service Corp.
Health Net Inc.
Health New England
HealthSouth Corp.
Hess Corp.
Hines Interest LP
HMSHost
Holland America Line
Hollister Inc.
HSN Inc.
HubSpot
IAP Worldwide Services Inc.
IBM
IHS
IKEA
Ingram Micro
Ingram Micro Inc.
Inova Health System
Insitu
Institute for Defense Analyses

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
INTEGRIS Health
Intel Corp.
Interactive Intelligence Group Inc.
ITC Holdings Corp.
JDS Uniphase
Jefferson Health System
Jo-Ann Stores LLC
Johns Hopkins U/Applied Physics Laboratory
JT3 LLC
Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Kao USA Inc.
Kimberly-Clark Corp.
King County
Kronos Inc.
L-3 Communications Aerospace Systems
L'Oreal USA Inc.
Laureate Education Inc.
Legg Mason Inc.
Leidos Holdings
Lenovo
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Lifetouch Inc.
Lincoln Financial Group
Liquor Control Board of Ontario
Lloyd's Register Americas
Lower Colorado River Authority
LoyaltyOne
LPL Financial LLC
Luck Cos.
LVMH Inc.
Magellan Health Inc.
Manulife Financial
Maricopa County
Mary Kay
MathWorks
Mattel Inc.
Mayo Clinic
McGraw-Hill Education
McLane Company Inc.
McLaren Health Care Corp.
McMaster University
MeadWestvaco Corp.
MedAssets
Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division
Mercer
Mercury Insurance Group
Meritor Inc.
Metropolitan Transit Authority
Microsoft Corp.
MillerCoors
MITRE Corp.
MOM Brands

MoneyGram International Inc.
Moody's
MSA Safety Inc.
MUFG Union Bank NA
Murphy Oil Corp.
Mutual of Omaha
Nationwide Insurance
Navy Federal Credit Union
NetJets Inc.
New Balance Athletic Shoe Inc.
New Brunswick Power Corp.
Newmont Ghana Gold Limited
Newmont Mining Corp.
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
NiSource Inc.
Northern Trust Bank
Northern Trust Corp.
Northwest Hospital \& Medical Center
NOVA Chemicals Corp.
Nova Southeastern University
Nu Skin Enterprises Inc.
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oakwood Healthcare Inc.
OGE Energy Corp.
OHL
OKI Data Americas
Olympus Corporation of the Americas
OneAmerica Financial Partners Inc.
Orbitz Worldwide
Outerwall Inc.
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
Pacific Life Insurance Co.
Palmetto Health
Panduit
Parmalat Canada
Payless ShoeSource Inc.
Peabody Energy
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
People's United Bank
Perkins Coie LLP
PGi
Philips North America
Physio-Control Inc.
Pick n Pay
PNM Resources Inc.
PolyOne Corp.
Population Council
Port Authority of Allegheny County
Port of Seattle
Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC
Premier Inc.
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
ProHealth Care Inc.
Protective Life Corp.

The Provident Bank
Prudential Financial Inc.
Public Service Enterprise Group
QAD Inc.
QBE North America
Randstad US
Red Hat Inc.
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers Inc.
Regal Beloit Corp.
Regions Hospital
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Remington Outdoor Company Inc.
Republic Airways Holdings Inc.
Revenu Quebec
Rexnord
Rich Products Corp.
Rio Tinto
Rite Aid Corp.
Rogers Communications Inc.
Rollins Inc.
Rolls-Royce North America
Royal Dutch Shell PLC
R.R. Donnelley \& Sons Co.

Rush University Medical Center
S.C. Johnson \& Son Inc.

SAIC
Saint Francis Care
Saint Luke's Health System
Salesforce.com
Salt River Project
Samsung Electronics America
Sandy Spring Bank
Sanofi
SaskTel
Savers Inc.
SCANA Corp.
Schneider National
Schneider National Inc.
Scotiabank
Seattle Children's Hospital
Siemens Corp.
Sirius Computer Solutions Inc.
Southcoast Health
Southern Illinois Healthcare
Spectrum Health
Sports Authority Inc.
SRC Inc.
St. Cloud Hospital
Stanford Hospital \& Clinics
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
State Auto Insurance Cos.
State of North Dakota
STMicroelectronics Inc.
Stonegate Mortgage Corp.

SunGard
Sunrise Senior Living
Superior Energy Services Inc.
Sutter Health System Office
Symantec Corp.
Synnex Corp.
T.D. Williamson Inc.

Talisman Energy USA Inc.
TC Transcontinental
TD Ameritrade
TDS Telecommunications Corp.
TE Connectivity Ltd.
Teacher Retirement System of Texas
Teekay Shipping
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tesoro Corp.
Texas Children's Hospital
The Andersons Inc.
The Boeing Co.
The Broad Institute
The Co-operators Group Ltd.
The Manitowoc Company Inc.
The Maschhoffs LLC
The National Academies
The Queen's Medical Center
The TJX Companies Inc.
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The Walt Disney Co.
The Warranty Group
The Wendy's Co.
Tim Hortons Inc.
Time Warner Cable
Tower International Inc.
Transat
TransLink
TransUnion
Trinity Industries Inc.
TruGreen
Tuality Healthcare
tw telecom
U.S. Cellular
U.S. Bank

ULTA Beauty
UMass Memorial Health Care
UMB Financial Corp.
Unisys, Federal Systems
United Airlines
United States Enrichment Corporation Inc.
United States Steel Corp.
United Stationers
University of Colorado Hospital
University of Dayton
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Miami

University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of St. Thomas
Unum
UPS
USG Corp.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Vantage West Credit Union
Vantiv Inc.
Vectren Corp.
Veolia North America
Verisign
Vermeer Corp.
ViaSat Inc.
Virtua Health
Volkswagen Group of America Chattanooga Operations LLC

Volvo Group US
Waste Management
Websense Inc.
Western Compensation \& Benefits Consultants
Western Union Co.
Westfield Group
Weyerhaeuser Co.
Whirlpool Corp.
Wiley
Wind River
Wood Group Mustang
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
Wright State University
Wycliffe Bible Translators Inc.
XO Communications
Zachry
Zurich North America


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ A statistically significantly higher percentage of participants cited using bonuses (e.g., sign-on, retention) as a type of variable pay in $2014(82 \%)$ compared to $2010(59 \%)$, while a statistically significantly lower percentage of participants cited using individual incentives (other than sales incentives) as a type of variable pay in 2014 (42\%) than in 2010 (67\%).

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ A statistically significantly lower number of participants cited using individual performance against MBOs or similar personal objectives in 2014 (49\%) compared with the same method in 2012 (58\%).

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ A statistically significantly lower number of participants in 2014 defined separate structures by business unit/subsidiary (18\%) compared with 2012 (31\%).

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ A statistically significantly higher number of organizations in 2014 awarded merit increases ( $95 \%$ ) compared with 2010 ( $92 \%$ ).
    ${ }^{5}$ A statistically significantly higher number of organizations used internal equity adjustments (70\%) as a type of salary increase and/or adjustment compared with 2010 (64\%).

[^4]:    ${ }^{6}$ A statistically significantly higher number of participants received individual discussions with their supervisor (82\%) about the pay program compared with 2010 (73\%).

[^5]:    ${ }^{7}$ A statistically significantly higher number of organizational management determines salary program effectiveness by employee satisfaction survey metrics (53\%) compared with 2010 (46\%).

[^6]:    ${ }^{8}$ Private-sector organizations are statistically significantly less likely to share base salary range for the employee's pay grade ( $41 \%$ ) compared with nonprofit employees (57\%).

